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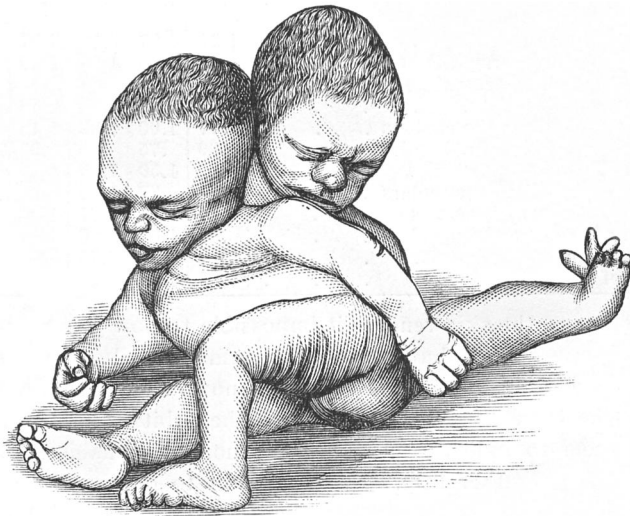
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**DESCRIPTION OF A MONSTROSITY.**

BY HENRY C. CHAPMAN, M.D.

I am indebted to Dr. James Ogden, of Paschalville, Philadelphia, for the opportunity of dissecting the monstrosity, of the general appearance of which, the illustration gives a good idea. I learn from the doctor that the father and mother are both colored people. The mother is only 18 years old, and has had one child. The children were born dead. The labor lasted 12 hours, the head of the right child presenting first. There was but one placenta.



As regards their mode of attachment, the children were joined together anteriorly by a common sternum and posteriorly by the ribs, the left ribs of the right child being joined to the right ribs of the left. (In my description the children are supposed to be lying upon their backs.) There were two distinct vertebral columns; the heads and necks were quite separate and freely movable. The right upper and lower extremities of right child and the left upper and lower extremities of left child were normal. The two inner arms seemed to be represented in a rudimentary condition

by a lump growing out of a scapula more or less divided into two. The inner clavicles of the children were united. The bone was found fractured, this being caused no doubt in labor. The inner legs of the children were fused into one, which articulated with the acetabulum formed by the inner innominates. The foot exhibited eight toes. Five of these belonged to the left foot of right child and three to right foot of left child. The pelves were double. The left innominate of right child was fused with the right innominate of left child.

*Circulatory Apparatus.*—There were two distinct hearts with a sinus between them, which received the innominate veins and opened into the right and left auricles of the heart of the right child and the right auricle of the heart of the left child. The heart of the left child was twice as large as that of the right, the common carotids in both children arose by a single trunk from their respective aortas. The outer subclavians were normal, the inner ones feebly developed. The two aortas were well developed, but there was but one hypogastric artery; this, however, was large, and came off from the aorta of left child. Two pairs of lungs were present.

*Alimentary Apparatus.*—While there were two distinct stomachs, the two small intestines, however, united twenty-seven inches above the cæcum to form one large intestine, which terminated in a single rectum with one anus. The two livers were continuous, the umbilical vein divided into two branches, one for each liver. The two pancreas' were massed together, but only one spleen was seen.

*The Genito-urinary Apparatus.*—Four kidneys were found, those of left child lying rather loosely in the abdominal cavity; they exhibited enormous ureters which terminated in a bladder in front of the uterus of the left child. As there was no external opening, their size arose possibly from their chronic dilatation by urine. The kidneys of the right child were found in their normal condition, their ureters terminated in a bladder which was seen lying in front of the uterus of right child. The uterus of the right child terminated in a bifid vagina with two external openings; the uterus of left child was longer and narrower than that of right; its vagina was imperforate. The rectum lay between the two uteri.

*Reflection on the Cause of Monstrosities.*—It is well known that there are two views offered by physiologists as explanations

of the formation of monstrosities: either they are to be regarded as due to the fusion of two individuals, or the secondary individual is to be considered as having budded from the first. As an argument in favor of this latter view there is instanced the fact of there having been found in one yolk two embryos more or less united. While the fact is true, the inference that such embryos have been developed from one germ cannot be drawn until it has been shown that such a yolk has not resulted from the fusion of two yolks while in the oviducts. As an objection to the former view, it is urged that as the presence of an additional finger or toe is merely regarded as an exhibition of extra nutrition, a sort of budding, to be consistent an almost perfect secondary individual should also be regarded as such, inasmuch as there exists a gradual series between the very simple malformations and the more complex ones, and further, if an additional finger for example has resulted from the fusion of two individuals, what has become of the rest of the secondary being? It may be answered that the presence of an extra finger cannot be fairly compared with that of a secondary system, alimentary, circulatory, etc., well developed. Again, it is quite conceivable in certain cases that only a part of a secondary individual should develop and the rest atrophy. While not denying that there can be budding from certain parts, it appears to me that a fact like that just described of two intestines fusing into one, with the remaining organs double and fully developed, is more readily understood by supposing that two individuals have been joined together than that one has budded from the other. The different pups in a litter are developed from distinct ova. Most authorities consider human twins as having the same origin. It seems a natural inference, therefore, that a monstrosity such as I have just described is the result of the union of two individuals in the early stages of gestation.